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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/722,607 | 11/28/2000 | David White | 088305-0122 | 5792 |
| 7590 | 10/19/2005 | | EXAMINER | |
| | | | KARMIS, STEFANOS | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3624 | |
| DATE MAILED: 10/19/2005 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/722,607 | WHITE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Stefano Karmis | 3624 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-23 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed 22 July 2005.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1, 13 and 25 are currently amended. Claims 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18-23, 26 and 27 are previously presented. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 are originally filed. Claims 4, 5, 12, 16, 17, 24 and 28 are cancelled. Therefore claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-23 and 25-27 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 22 July 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as discussed below. Therefore claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-23 and 25-27 remain rejected and Applicant's request for allowance is respectfully declined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3624

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-3, 6-15 and 18-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carlton-Foss U.S. Patent 6,647,373 as stated in the previous office action, mailed 25 April 2005.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant has amended the claim to include “wherein the step of receiving a bid from one or more participants comprises: receiving values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted; calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weight for each of the selected categories and the received values; determining the composite score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and displaying the composite score to the participant from which the values were received before the bid is submitted.” Applicant asserts in his remarks that Carlton-Foss fails to suggest the auction participant being provided with a composite score before the bid is submitted by the bidder. However, the Applicant failed to point to the Examiner where this limitation is supported in the specification and the Examiner finds no such evidence. In fact, the specification says, “A composite score is then calculated for the submitted bid” (step 550 in Figure 5). This language along with Figure 5 suggest to the Examiner that the composite score is actually not calculated until after the bid is submitted. Therefore, the amendment is given no weight since there appears to be no support in the specification for Applicant’s argument. Therefore the amendment to claim 1 is not considered and claim 1 remains rejected as stated in the previous office action, mailed 25 April 2005. Claims 13 and 25 contain similar amendments

Art Unit: 3624

and therefore are rejected using the reasoning as that of claim 1. Any remaining claims are rejected based on their dependency and as stated in the previous office action, mailed 25 April 2005. Therefore claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-15, 18-23 and 25-27 stand rejected and Applicant's request for allowance is respectfully declined.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefano Karmis whose telephone number is (571) 272-6744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

Art Unit: 3624

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully Submitted
Stefano Karmis
14 October 2005



VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600